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ABSTRACT

This guidebook provides information about the Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery (ASVAB). It is written for high school students to encourage them to use the ASVAB in their career exploration. The booklet is written in a question and answer format. Sample test items and an answer sheet for the ASVAB subtests are included. The areas assessed by the test battery are general science, arithmetic reasoning, word knowledge, paragraph comprehension, numerical operations, coding speed, auto and shop information, mathematics knowledge, mechanical comprehension; and electronics information. The ASVAB is used by military organizations for enlistment purposes. Diagrams indicate the relationship between ASVAB occupational composites to military and civilian career fields. (DWH)

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A STUDENT'S GUIDE TO THE *ASVAB*

Why Should You Take The Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery (ASVAB)?

You may already have an idea of your career goals. On the other hand, you may be like millions of other high school students who are seeking some assistance in gathering and sorting the information you need to make an informed decision. If you already have career goals in mind, you probably need information about the different avenues available to you in pursuing those goals. If you haven't determined your career goals yet, you need a starting point for doing your career planning. Wherever you are in the career exploration process, the ASVAB can help you prepare for your next step.

Your decision to enter college, technical or vocational school, military service, or the world of work is an important one. You should know as much as possible about your strengths and weaknesses in order to make a choice which is appropriate for you. ASVAB can help you by providing some of this information. Your ASVAB scores relate to both military and civilian career areas and can help you evaluate your potential for success in training in both areas. These scores can also be used to qualify interested students for enlistment and various military training programs.

Your ASVAB scores reflect your aptitudes; it is also important to remember that interests, achievement scores, grades in subject areas, values, and your level of motivation play a large role in career exploration and planning. The information in this guide is designed to answer questions you may have about the ASVAB, its accompanying materials, and how your scores can be used to help you prepare for the future.

Questions and Answers About ASVAB

What is ASVAB?

The ASVAB, sponsored by the Department of Defense (DoD), is a vocational aptitude battery consisting of ten short tests which cover the areas of General Science, Arithmetic Reasoning, Word Knowledge, Paragraph Comprehension, Numerical Operations, Coding Speed, Auto and Shop Information, Mathematics Knowledge, Mechanical Comprehension, and Electronics Information. The results of the ten individual tests are combined to provide you with three "academic" and four "occupational" composite scores. The academic composites are Verbal, Math, and Academic Ability; the occupational composites are Mechanical and Crafts, Business and Clerical, Electronics and Electrical, and Health, Social, and Technology.

Who administers the test?

The test is given at your school by a test administrator from the Federal Government.

What does it cost and are there any obligations?

ASVAB is administered free of charge and there are no obligations on your part.

How long does it take? Will I miss class?

ASVAB testing takes approximately three hours. You may miss class depending on your school schedule, but it will be with your school's approval.

How can I prepare for the ASVAB?

No studying or special preparation is required to take the ASVAB. Getting a good night's rest and arriving on time to take the test are the two most important steps you can take to prepare.

What can I expect on the day of the test?

When you take the ASVAB, you will be given a booklet with ten short tests. Each consists of *practice* questions and actual *test* questions. You will also be given a *separate answer sheet* on which to mark your answers and scratch paper for doing any calculations. You will be given instructions for taking the tests, and told how much time you have to work on each. After you have been given the instructions, you will be allowed to practice by answering some sample questions. Finally, you will be given the opportunity to ask questions before you start so that you will understand exactly what you are supposed to do.

What kinds of questions will I be asked?

Sample test questions listed in the next section represent a few of the types of questions which are on the ASVAB. This booklet includes a blank answer sheet to answer the sample test questions. The answer sheet is the first page of the test section and is perforated so you may separate it from the booklet while taking the sample test. You may practice by marking your answers to the questions on this blank answer sheet and then comparing them with the correct answers. The correct answers to the questions in this booklet are on the last page of the sample test section.

What will the test tell me?

Your ASVAB scores will give you an idea of your abilities compared to those of other young people. The results of the ten subtests you will take will be put together in various combinations to give you seven composite scores. These composites are measures of aptitude. Three of these composite scores measure your aptitude for higher academic learning. The other four, which are called occupational scores, relate to your potential for success in completing training in a number of career areas.

Exactly what is an aptitude?

An aptitude is the potential, or readiness, to become proficient or acquire a skill or ability, if given the opportunity. This may refer to your capacity to learn one type of work or your potential for general training. The ASVAB measures those abilities which you have already learned or acquired.

How will I know if I passed the test?

The ASVAB is not a "pass" or "fail" test. The ASVAB permits you to compare your scores with those of other students in the United States. You will want to consider your ASVAB scores along with other information about yourself when you are making educational or occupational plans.

Who gets to see my results?

Your test results and interpretive information are returned to your school. Your counselor can provide you with answers to any questions about the test results. Before the test, you will be required to sign a statement authorizing DoD to score your test and return your scores to your school. The release of scores to military recruiters is determined by your school. If you are a junior or senior, you may be contacted by a service recruiter sometime before you graduate. You should expect to be contacted whether or not you take the ASVAB. Sophomore test results are provided to the school but not to military recruiters.

How long may my test results be used for military entrance?

ASVAB scores may be used for two years for enlistment into the military.

What use is made of the personal information I furnish at the time of testing?

The military services use this information for recruiting and research. Your school uses it for counseling. The military services delete your personal identifying data from their records after two years. Data which does not contain personal information may be retained longer for research purposes. Once ASVAB scores are returned to your school, the information becomes part of your school records and is treated in accordance with your school's policy for handling student records.

What should I do if a recruiter calls me?

A recruiter is your best source of information about the many opportunities available through the military service. You will probably want to find out as much as possible from any recruiter who calls about these opportunities and how they apply to you. The military services want all young people to know about the many benefits available, including a competitive starting salary, rewarding jobs, outstanding technical training, and a variety of educational opportunities. You are, of course, under no obligation to the military as a result of taking the ASVAB.

Is there any relationship between taking the ASVAB and selective service registration?

There is no relationship between taking the ASVAB and Selective Service registration. ASVAB information is not available to the Selective Service System.

If I am going to college, why should I take the ASVAB?

ASVAB results provide you with information regarding your capacity for advanced academic education and your aptitude for selected

occupational areas. You can use the ASVAB results with other information to target areas for career exploration.

I wish to become a commissioned officer. Should I take the ASVAB?

Yes. Although ASVAB is not required for entrance into most officer training programs, taking the ASVAB is a valuable experience for any student who aspires to become a military officer. The aptitude information you receive will assist you in career planning.

I am considering enlisting in the Reserve or National Guard. Should I take the ASVAB?

Yes. These military organizations also use the ASVAB for enlistment purposes.

How do I find out what my scores mean and how to use them?

Your scores will be provided to you on a report called "*Your ASVAB Results.*" You will find information on that report and in this guide which will help you to start interpreting your scores. *Your counselor is your best source of information and assistance in understanding how to use your scores.* Your counselor has additional information about you and about using your scores, including a copy of the *Military Career Guide: Employment and Training Opportunities in the Military.*

What is the Military Career Guide?

The *Military Career Guide* was designed to be used by students and parents for career exploration purposes. The *Military Career Guide* describes the enlisted occupations in the Army, Navy, Air Force, Marine Corps, and Coast Guard. The book also may be useful to

explore occupations even if you are not sure you want to enlist in the military. The *Military Career Guide* provides a description of more than 130 different clusters of military occupations. General information is provided on subjects such as enlistment requirements, military life, and training opportunities. There is a section for each service (Army, Navy, Air Force, Marine Corps, and Coast Guard) that details enlistment, training, advancement, and educational programs.

What can I learn about different occupations in the military from the Military Career Guide?

There are many different occupations that are filled by enlisted persons in the military services. The *Military Career Guide* organizes these occupations into more than 130 clusters of enlisted occupations. For each of these career clusters the following information is provided:

- Work performed
- Environmental conditions
- Physical demands
- Restrictions based on sex
- Special qualification requirements
- Aptitude requirements
- Representative military occupational titles
- Service branch
- Length of training
- Summary of training content
- Civilian educational requirements
- Representative civilian occupation counterparts

How can I use my ASVAB results with the Military Career Guide?

For each of more than 130 occupational groupings (clusters) discussed in the *Military Career Guide*, there is a graph that can help you use your ASVAB results to estimate your chances of qualifying for at least one job within that occupational cluster in the military. The best predicts success in that particular career field. There is an index in the back of the book where you can find out which *occupational composite* relates to the occupational clusters described in the *Military Career Guide*.

How can I use the Military Career Guide with other career information resources in my school?

The book is organized according to the same general categories used in the *Occupational Outlook Handbook*. In addition, there is a *Dictionary of Occupational Titles* (*DOT*) index in the *Military Career Guide*. This allows you to look up occupations in the military according to *DOT* information, such as worker actions, the purpose of these actions, machines, tools, equipment, or work aids used. These features also make the book compatible with the *Guide to Occupational Exploration* and several other publications which may be available in your school's career resource center.

I want to take the ASVAB, but my school doesn't offer it (or I missed it). What should I do?

See your counselor right away. In some cases, schools offer the ASVAB more than once a year. In other cases, arrangements may be made for you to take it at another high school.

Sample Items for the ASVAB Subtests.

Tear off the sample answer sheet at the right. Use it when answering the questions on the next few pages. Then check your answers against the answer key on page 24.

TEAR HERE

TEST ANSWER SHEET

GENERAL SCIENCE

1 A B C D
2 A B C D

ARITHMETIC REASONING

3 A B C D
4 A B C D

WORD KNOWLEDGE

5 A B C D
6 A B C D

PARAGRAPH COMPREHENSION

7 A B C D
8 A B C D

NUMERICAL OPERATIONS

9 A B C D
10 A B C D

CODING SPEED

11 A B C D E
12 A B C D E
13 A B C D E
14 A B C D E
15 A B C D E
16 A B C D E
17 A B C D E
18 A B C D E
19 A B C D E
20 A B C D E
21 A B C D E
22 A B C D E
23 A B C D E
24 A B C D E

AUTO & SHOP INFORMATION

25 A B C D
26 A B C D

MATHEMATICS KNOWLEDGE

27 A B C D
28 A B C D

MECHANICAL COMPREHENSION

29 A B C D
30 A B C D

ELECTRONICS INFORMATION

31 A B C D
32 A B C D

GENERAL SCIENCE

This test will consist of 25 questions encompassing both physical and biological sciences. Each question is followed by four alternatives from which you are to select the correct answer and blacken the corresponding space on your answer sheet.

The sample below has already been answered for you. Be sure you understand it. Then answer the two questions following it as best you can.

SAMPLE QUESTION

Water is an example of a

A. crystal.

B. solid.

C. gas.

D. liquid.

D is the correct answer.

Questions

1. An eclipse of the sun throws the shadow of the

   1-A. moon on the sun.

   1-B. moon on the earth.

   1-C. earth on the sun.

   1-D. earth on the moon.

2. Substances which hasten chemical reaction time without themselves undergoing change are called

   2-A. buffers.

   2-B. colloids.

   2-C. reducers.

   2-D. catalysts.

ARITHMETIC REASONING

This test will consist of 30 arithmetic reasoning problems. In each case, you are to solve the problem and then select the correct answer from four alternatives.

The sample question below has already been answered for you. Make sure you understand it. Then answer the two questions following it, blackening the corresponding spaces on your answer sheet.

SAMPLE QUESTION

If 2 men are needed to run four machines, how many men are needed to run 20 machines?

A. 48

B. 20

C. 80

D. 60

D is the correct answer.

Questions

3. How many 36-passenger busses will it take to carry 144 people?

3-A. 3

3-B. 4

3-C. 5

3-D. 6

4. It costs $0.50 per square yard to waterproof canvas. What will it cost to waterproof a canvas truck cover that is 15' × 24'?

4-A. $ 9.67

4-B. $ 18.00

4-C. $ 20.00

4-D. $180.00

WORD KNOWLEDGE

This test is designed to measure your understanding of the meaning of words. The test will consist of 35 underlined words, each followed by four alternatives. From the four choices, you are to select the word or phrase meaning most nearly the same as the underlined word and blacken the corresponding space on your answer sheet.

The sample question below has already been answered for you. Make sure you understand it. Then answer the two questions following it as best you can.

SAMPLE QUESTION

Small most nearly means

A. sturdy.

B. round.

C. cheap.

D. little.

D is the correct answer.

Questions

5. The wind is *variable* today.

   5-A. mild

   5-B. steady

   5-C. shifting

   5-D. chilling

6. *Rudiments* most nearly means

   6-A. politics.

   6-B. minute details.

   6-C. promotion opportunities.

   6-D. basic methods and procedures.

PARAGRAPH COMPREHENSION

This test will contain 15 items measuring ability to obtain information from written passages. In this section you will find one or more paragraphs of reading material followed by incomplete statements or questions. You are to read the paragraph(s) and select one of the lettered choices which best completes the statements or answers the questions.

Read the sample below carefully and choose the best answer to complete the paragraph or answer the question. Make sure you understand it. Then answer the two questions following it, blackening the corresponding spaces on your answer sheet.

SAMPLE QUESTION

From a building designer's standpoint, three things that make a home liveable are the client, the building site, and the amount of money the client has to spend. According to the passage, to make a home liveable

A. the prospective piece of land makes little difference.

B. it can be built on any piece of land.

C. the design must fit the owner's income and site.

D. the design must fit the designer's income.

The correct answer is C.

Questions

7. Twenty-five percent of all household burglaries can be attributed to unlocked windows or doors. Crime is the result of opportunity plus desire. To prevent crime, it is each individual's responsibility to

7-A. provide the desire.

7-B. provide the opportunity.

7-C. prevent the desire.

7-D. prevent the opportunity.

8. In certain areas water is so scarce that every attempt is made to conserve it. For instance, on one oasis in the Sahara Desert the amount of water necessary for each date palm tree has been carefully determined.

How much water is each tree given?

8-A. no water at all

8-B. water on alternate days

8-C. exactly the amount required

8-D. water only if it is healthy

15.

NUMERICAL OPERATIONS

This test will contain 50 simple mathematical computations, each followed by four possible answers. You are to rapidly determine which of the four answers is correct and blacken the corresponding space on your answer sheet. This is a speed test, so work as fast as you can without making mistakes.

The sample question below has already been answered for you. Make sure you understand it. Then answer the two questions following it as best you can.

SAMPLE QUESTION

$3 \times 4 =$

A. 7

B. 1

C. 14

D. 12

D is the correct answer.

Questions

9. $3 + 9 =$

9-A. 3

9-B. 6

9-C. 12

9-D. 13

10. $60 \div 15 =$

10-A. 3

10-B. 4

10-C. 5

10-D. 6

CODING SPEED

This is a test of 84 items to see how quickly and accurately you can find a number in a table. At the top of each section there is a number table or "Key." The key is a group of words with a code number for each word. Each question in the test is a word taken from the key at the top of that page. From among the possible answers listed for each question, find the one that is the correct code number for that word.

Look at the sample key and answer the five sample questions below. Make sure you understand it. Then answer the 14 questions following it as quickly as you can, blackening the corresponding spaces on your answer sheet.

KEY

green	.....	2715	man	.....	3451	salt	.....	4586
hat	.....	1413	room	.....	2864	tree	.....	5972

SAMPLE QUESTIONS	ANSWERS				
	A	B	C	D	E
1. room	1413	2715	2864	3451	4586
2. green	2715	2864	3451	4586	5972
3. tree	1413	2715	3451	4586	5972
4. hat	1413	2715	3451	4586	5972
5. room	1413	2864	3451	4586	5972

The correct answers are 1-C, 2-A, 3-E, 4-A, 5-B.

Questions

KEY

bargain	..8385	game	..6456	knife	..7150	sunshine	..7849	point	..4703
chin	..8930	house	..2859	music	..1117	owner	..6227	sofa	..9645

QUESTIONS	ANSWERS				
	A	B	C	D	E
11. game	6456	7150	8385	8930	9645
12. knife	1117	6456	7150	7489	8385
13. bargain	2859	6227	7489	8385	9645
14. chin	2859	4703	8385	8930	9645
15. house	1117	2859	6227	7150	7489
16. sofa	7150	7489	8385	8930	9645
17. owner	4703	6227	6456	7150	8930

KEY

bargain	..8385	game	..6456	knife	..7150	sunshine	..7489	point	..4703
chin	..8930	house	..2859	music	..1117	owner	..6227	sofa	..9645

QUESTIONS	ANSWERS				
	A	B	C	D	E
18. music	1117	2859	7489	8385	9645
19. knife	6227	6456	7150	7489	8385
20. sunshine	4703	6227	6456	7489	8930
21. chin	1117	2859	4703	7150	8930
22. sofa	4703	6227	7150	8385	9645
23. bargain	2859	6456	8385	8930	9645
24. point	1117	4703	6227	6456	7150

AUTO & SHOP INFORMATION

This test has 25 questions about automobiles, shop practices, and the use of tools. Pick the best answer for each question.

The sample question below has already been answered for you. Be sure you understand it. Then answer the questions that follow, blackening the corresponding spaces on your answer sheet.

SAMPLE QUESTION

A chisel is used for

A. prying.
B. cutting.
C. twisting.
D. grinding.

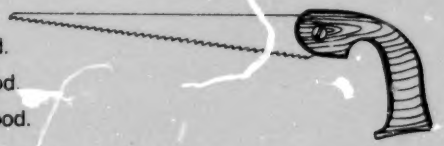
B is the correct answer.

Questions

25. A car uses too much oil when which parts are worn?

25-A. pistons
25-B. piston rings
25-C. main bearings
25-D. connecting rods

26. The saw shown is used mainly to cut



26-A. plywood.
26-B. odd-shaped holes in wood.
26-C. along the grain of the wood.
26-D. across the grain of the wood.

MATHEMATICS KNOWLEDGE

This test will contain 25 questions designed to measure general mathematical knowledge. Included are questions on algebra and geometry. Each question is followed by four possible answers, from which you are to select the correct response.

The sample question below has already been answered for you. Make sure you understand it. Then answer the two questions following it, blackening the corresponding spaces on your answer sheet.

SAMPLE QUESTION

If 50 percent of X = 66, then X =

A. 33
B. 132
C. 99
D. 66

B is the correct answer.

Questions

27. If x + 6 = 7, then x is equal to

27-A. 0
27-B. 1
27-C. −1
27-D. 7/6

28. What is the area of this square?

28-A. 1 square foot
28-B. 5 square feet
28-C. 10 square feet
28-D. 25 square feet

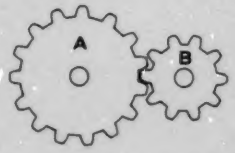
MECHANICAL COMPREHENSION

This test will contain 25 questions designed to measure your understanding of mechanical principles. Many of the questions use drawings to illustrate specific principles. Each question is followed by four possible answers from which you are to select the correct response.

The sample question below has already been answered for you. Make sure you understand it. Then answer the two questions following it as best you can, blackening the corresponding spaces on your answer sheet.

SAMPLE QUESTION

If gear A makes 14 revolutions, gear B will make



A. 21.

B. 17.

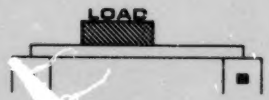
C. 14.

D. 9.

A. is the correct answer.

Questions

29. Which post holds up the greater part of the load?



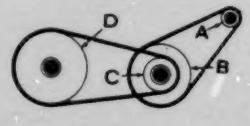
29-A. post A

29-B. post B

29-C. both equal

29-D. not clear

30. In this arrangement of pulleys, which pully turns fastest?



A. A

B. B

C. C

D. D

ELECTRONICS INFORMATION

This test will consist of 20 questions dealing with electricity, radio principles, and electronics. Each question is followed by four possible answers from which you are to select the best response.

The sample question below has already been answered for you. Make sure you understand it. Then answer the two questions following it, blackening the corresponding spaces on your answer sheet.

SAMPLE QUESTION

What does the abbreviation A.C. stand for?

A. additional charge
B. alternating coil
C. alternating current
D. amphere current

C is the correct answer.

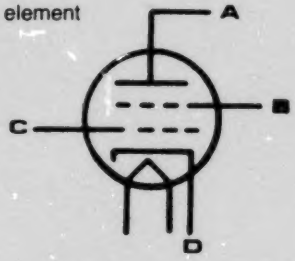
Questions

31. Which of the following has the least resistance?

31-A. wood
31-B. iron
31-C. rubber
31-D. silver

32. In the schematic vacuum tube illustrated, the cathode is element

A. A
B. B
C. C
D. D



Key to the Sample Test Items

1. B	17. B
2. D	18. A
3. B	19. C
4. C	20. D
5. C	21. E
6. D	22. E
7. D	23. C
8. C	24. B
9. C	25. B
10. B	26. B
11. A	27. B
12. C	28. D
13. D	29. A
14. D	30. A
15. B	31. D
16. E	32. D

Relating ASVAB Occupational Composites to Military and Civilian Career Fields

The *occupational scores* on the ASVAB relate to general career areas: *Mechanical & Crafts, Business & Clerical, Electronics & Electrical,* and *Health, Social, & Technology*. Within these areas are occupations that require different levels of abilities and training. The diagrams on the following pages give examples of various occupations you might want to investigate, depending on your specific *occupational scores* and your interests. The diagrams are provided to help you to relate your ASVAB results to occupations. There are a variety of civilian and military occupational titles given for each of the four career areas.

One way to begin exploring possible occupations is to find your highest *occupational scores*. Then, look at the diagrams on the following pages and make a list of occupations you wish to explore further. You may wish to increase your knowledge of the requirements, projected job openings, salary, opportunities for advancement, and career paths for each occupation you are considering.

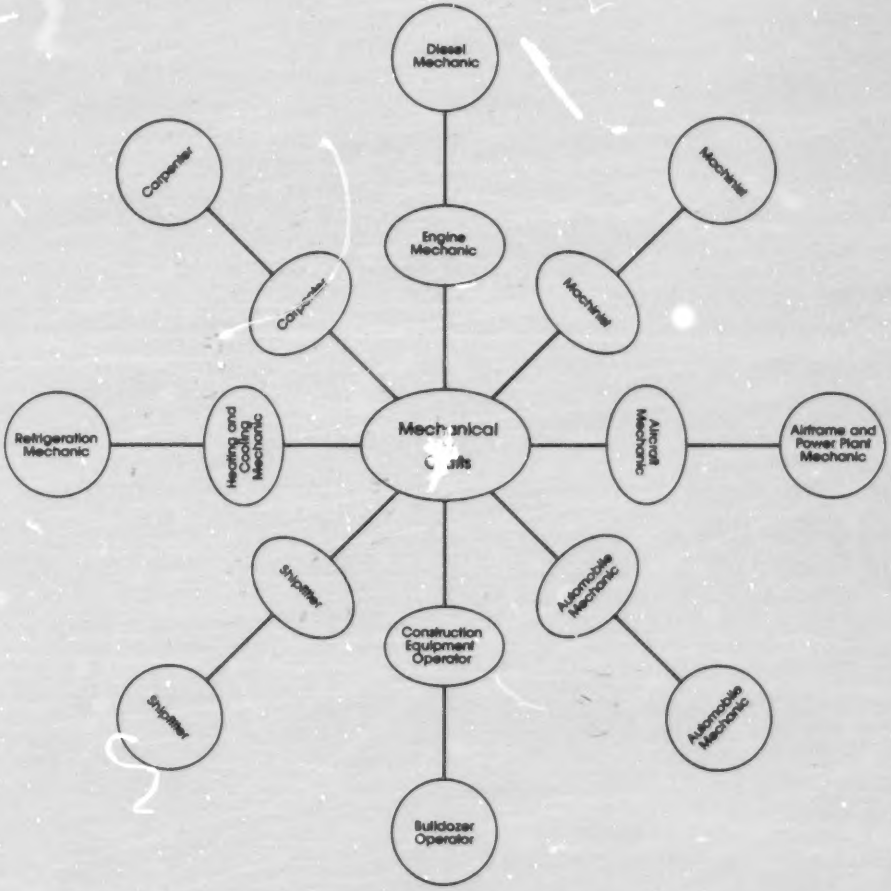
The career center contains a variety of resources for you to use to learn more about the careers you are exploring. For example, the career center has kits, printed materials, films, filmstrips, and cassettes. A career aide/librarian is available to help you find what you need. Public libraries also have resources if our school does not have what you need.

Remember, the occupations identified on the following diagrams are simply given as a starting point. They are designed to provide you with examples of types of occupations that are related to the ASVAB *occupational scores*. There are many other occupations that are not listed. Also, remember that ASVAB scores do not relate to all career areas. ASVAB scores, for example, will not help you learn about your abilities for occupations in music and the performing arts.

Keep an open mind and learn as much as you can about the world of work before making career decisions. In today's world, it is very likely that you will have many jobs during your lifetime. Now is the time to expand your knowledge of the world of work.

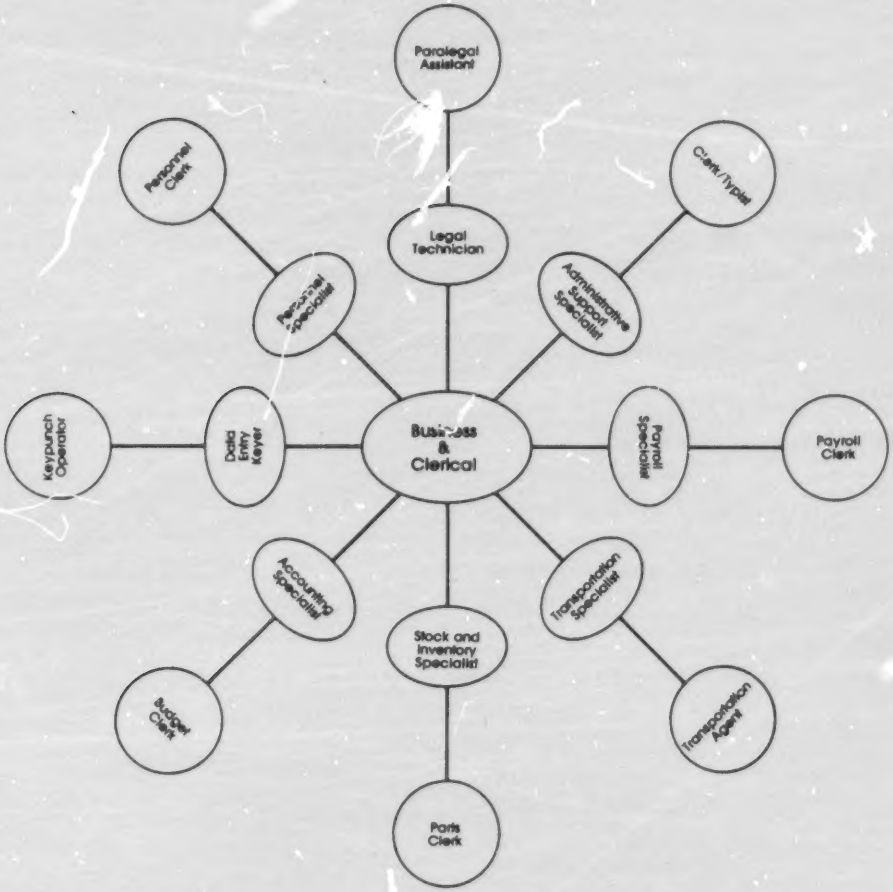
MECHANICAL AND CRAFTS

This figure relates occupations to the *Mechanical and Crafts* score on the ASVAB. The inner circle consists of military occupational titles. The outer circle consists of related civilian occupational titles.



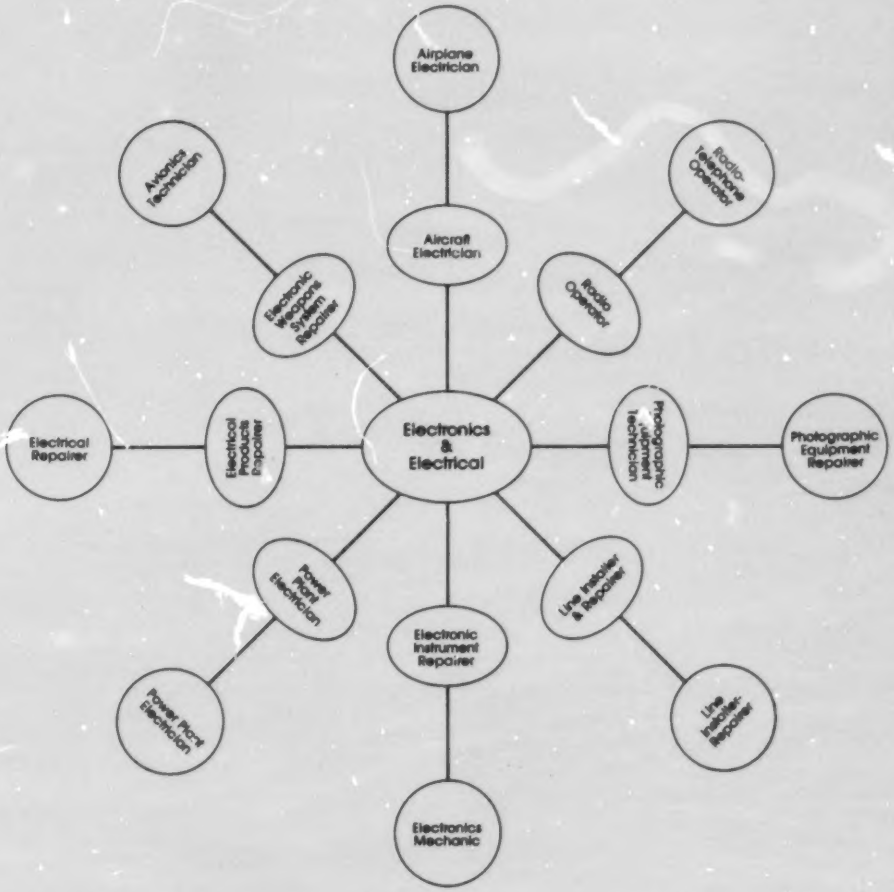
BUSINESS AND CLERICAL

This figure relates occupations to the *Business and Clerical* score on the ASVAB. The inner circle consists of military occupational titles. The outer circle consists of related civilian occupational titles.



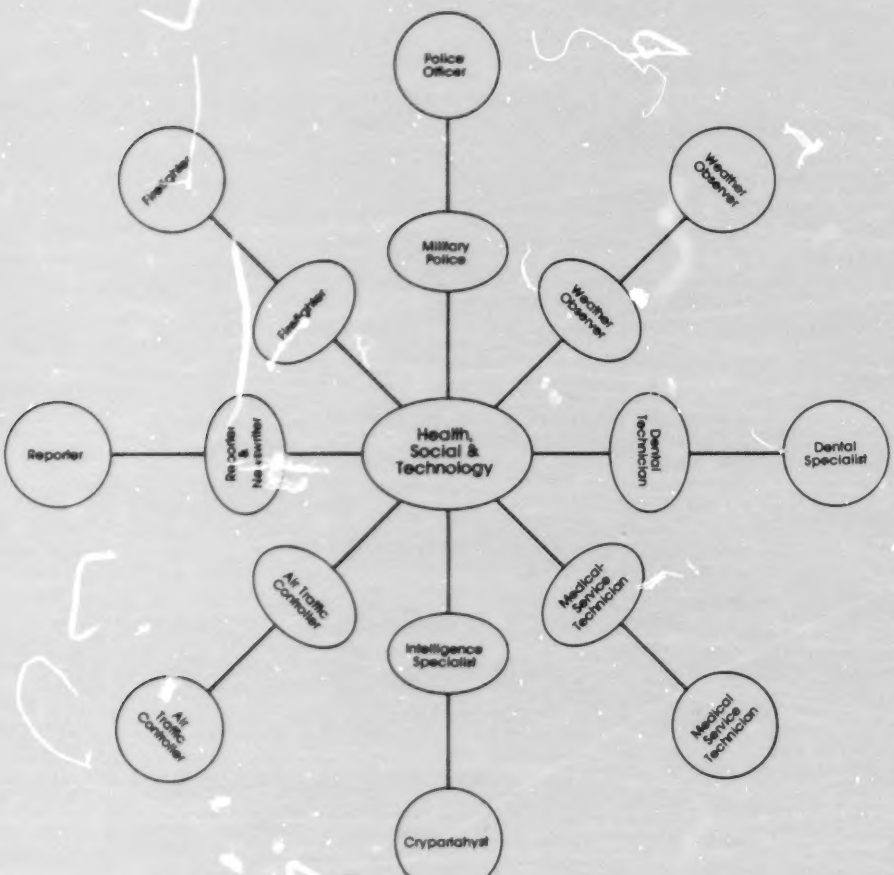
ELECTRONICS AND ELECTRICAL

This figure relates occupations to the *Electronics and Electrical* score on the ASVAB. The inner circle consists of military occupational titles. The outer circle consists of related civilian occupational titles.



HEALTH, SOCIAL, AND TECHNOLOGY

This figure relates occupations to the *Health, Social, and Technology* score on the ASVAB. The inner circle consists of military occupational titles. The outer circle consists of related civilian occupational titles.



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